THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Battery operated bus has been introduced in selected routes in Delhi on a trial basis. However, there is no proposal with the Government at present to encourage introduction of similar buses in other metropolitan cities.

(b) Does not arise.

National nutrition monitoring bureau

1288. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

SHRI KAILASH PATI *MISHRA:*

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which published in the 'Hindustan Times' of the 20th October, 1985 to the effect that a study by the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau has revealed that the slumdwellers and rural landless labour consumed half of the quantity of milk taken by industrial workers and low income groups, one sixth and one tenth only respectively of those consumed by middle income groups and higher income groups; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to ensure better milk consumption by weaker sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir. The milk consumption is related to the purchasing power of the consumer. The per capita consumption of milk by the Lower Income segment of population is, therefore, less than the national per capita availability of milk.

(b) The milk production and also the per capita availability of milk in the country has been steadily increasing. There are a number of central and State Sector schemes for cattle development in the country to improve their productivity. These are as follows; (1) Coordinated Cattle Breeding Project (Progeny Testing of Cross-bred bulls), (2) Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute, Hessarghata, (3) Cross Breeding of cattle with exotic dairy breeds and upgrading of buffaloes using frozen semen techniques outside operation flood area, (4) Assistance to selected Goshalas for production of high quality indigenous/cross-bred heifers, (5) Central Cattle Breeding Farms, (6) Central Herd Registration Scheme, (7) Intensive Cattle Development Project (ICDP), (8) Model Village Blocks, (9) State Cattle Breeding Farms and (10) Operation Flood Project. Further, the Integrated Rural Development Programme aims at identifying families below the poverty line based on income criteria and provides them with productive inputs, assets and technology with a view to bringing them above the poverty line.

Accelarating the work of betel leaf research

1289. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government plan to accelarate the work of betel leaf research;

(b) what amount has been allotted by the Central Government in the year 1984-85 for the said research; and

(c) what is the number of betel leaf research centres which are working in India and in which places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.